

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

RE: MB Docket No 05-311 In the Matter of Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

Dear Chairman Pai,

My life and the lives of thousands of other students have been changed forever by our experiences with PEG Access Television channels at TBNK.

I am therefore writing in support of the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA”) in the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making. I oppose the tentative conclusions the FCC reaches in the proceeding because of their impacts on our community.

I enjoyed a scholarship to Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and then a successful career in major-market television as a reporter and producer because of my experiences in local access television. My first program was on domestic violence in 1982. I covered other important stories to our community and continued that love of community service that was instilled in me by the staff of what is now TBNK when I was a teenager.

After working across the country as a broadcast journalist, I returned to Northern Kentucky and have taught broadcasting and documentary filmmaking on the high school and college level. A team of my high school students produced a powerful documentary on heroin and opioid addiction that included an in-studio segment with a local pastor and community center director who is on the “front lines” in a crisis that has consumed many of the resources in Northern Kentucky. The staff at TBNK was incredibly helpful with the program and their support has meant a lot to my students and to the people who work in fighting opioid addiction in our area. The TBNK staff are VERY professional and their care for the community is inspiring.

With Northern Kentucky being in the shadow of the major city of Cincinnati, TBNK is even MORE important than in some other areas because our news often gets ignored by the major media outlets across the river in Ohio. Many times, the ONLY coverage of important governmental, social and school-related stories and issues comes from TBNK.

My high school and college students from Thomas More University greatly value the professional knowledge they gain along with access to equipment and studio space. They have added a lot to their education thanks to TBNK. They also have learned about the importance of community service.

I also work for a non-profit, Children, Inc. that provides many services to children and families in NKY. We consider TBNK a powerful and important community partner and I know agencies feel the same.

Our local Public, Educational, and Governmental, (PEG) Access channels and PEG TV studio at the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky, provide valuable air time, and a full featured studio, and production equipment, as well as training classes for many individuals and organizations in our community.

In addition, local PEG programming in Northern Kentucky includes coverage of local government meetings, community events, and many of our schools' sporting events, as well as local election programming.

The FCC's FNPRM proposes to let cable providers deduct an, as yet undefined (and likely highly inflated) "value" for many cable related obligations, including the "value" of local PEG channels, which will result in the shutdown of PEG channels in most communities across the country, or severely shrink their resources and programming to almost nothing. These PEG channels have been providing valuable public services, including diverse and local programming in communities across the country for many years, as provided by Cable Franchise law. I urge the FCC, as an administrative agency to not try to re-write the laws that were written by the legislators that "we the people" elected.

I urge the FCC to protect PEG channels and related PEG facilities and funding in our community and others, and to not to adopt the Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

I am glad to discuss this further via telephone or even in person – I feel that strongly about supporting TBNK!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Steve Oldfield". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Steve" and "Oldfield" being capitalized and prominent.

Steve Oldfield

859-307-1103

Children, Inc.